AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1914, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1102, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 8. NO 27. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1918. WHOLE NO. 391.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

Steel Trust Is Blasted From Its Long-Hour Trench

Washington, Sept. 28.—A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison has received this telegram from John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago federation of labor:

"On the eve of our third great mass meeting at Gary, Ind., the steel corporation announced that the eight-hour day will go into effect October 1."

"It is the last convention of the A. F. of L. it was decided to start a nation-wide organizing campaign against the steel trust. That this agitation is effective is shown by the trust's retirement from its long-hour trench.

SERBIA IS IMPORTANT IN WORLD'S STRUGGLE

Washington, Sept. 28.—The importance of the little nation of Serbia in the present world war is shown by Congressman Collier of Mississippi. In a speech in the house he indicated that the assassination of an Austrian prince by a Serbian fanatic, which some people suppose was the cause of the war, was but an incident in the continued opposition of Serbia against Austria's aggressions. He said that the central powers might have a clear sweep in their proposed world dominion if Serbia had not first started with the erection of an empire extending from Berlin across Asia to the Balkan states, Turkey and the far east.

"Serbia, the greatest, the most unselfish, and the most important of all the Balkan states, was the chief obstacle to Austria's ambitious plans for control and acquisition of territory in the Balkan peninsula," said Congressman Collier.

"Only six years before, Austria, in violation of a solemn treaty, forcibly annexed the Balkan states of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was greedy for more territory and more expansion. Bounded on the north by its ally, the great German empire, and on the east by Turkey, expansion of Austria could come only from the south. In this plan of Austrian control German ruthlessness appeared, because it was only through the Balkan peninsula that Germany could extend its operations in the east and secure an outlet upon the Aegean, Adriatic, and Mediterranean seas. It was therefore essential to German ambition that Serbia be either dismembered or destroyed.

"The Balkan peninsula was the scene of much strife and turmoil, and three different Balkan states were frequently fighting among themselves. The cause of this turmoil and fighting was the result of Austrian diplomacy there can be little doubt. Here was the white intense rivalry between Serbia and Bulgaria for supremacy in the Balkans, but Serbia in every contest was completely demonstrated that the title to supremacy in Balkan affairs was hers. This fact, considered, would have removed the chief obstacle of Austria's control in the peninsula at some time would put an end to the Serbian propaganda of Serbian unity, the cause of much disquiet and unrest in the Slavonic provinces of the dual monarchy.

"The Serbians were keenly aware of the importance both to Austria and Germany that Serbia should be destroyed. Once Serbia was dismembered and partitioned among the greedy Balkan powers the central powers had little to fear, as only the least bit of primary skill and tact could effect any kind of confederation or organization in the Balkans.

"Knowing all this Austria, on several occasions, in order to avoid a conflict which, unaided, would have meant her ruin, submitted to open humiliation.

"Austrian control of the Balkans would have practically the same relation as German control of the peninsula, and without this control there would have been no opportunity for Germany to extend its operations in the east. It was the ambition of the country of Serbia that a railroad could be projected and operated from Berlin to Bagdad, in the territory of the Turk."

SPENCER ON WAR BOARD.

Washington, Sept. 28.—W. J. Spencer, general-treasurer of the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., has been appointed, a director of the United States housing corporation.

Congress originally appropriated $50,000,000 for the department of labor to provide houses for war munitions workers. As the law does not permit government officials to engage in business transactions, the housing corporation was organized under the laws of the state of New York. One thousand non-profit shares are issued, all being held by Secretary of War Wilson and one each by Chairman Biddle and Secretary Lane of the housing corporation.

"The housing corporation is empowered to commandeer houses and build houses," said Secretary Spencer. "The houses will be sold to workers at reduced rates and on monthly instalments. After the war if it is claimed that these houses have decreased in price, the housing corporation will revalue the houses, being guided by prices of similar houses in the same locality. If it is found that prices have declined a new price will be issued and the loss, if any, to the housing corporation, which will reduce its original sale price to meet this figure. In other words, the government will not the worker, will stand any loss because of war inflations."

LIVING COSTS HIGHER.

Washington, Sept. 28.—An investigation by the department of labor shows that the cost of living for an average family of five in each of Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles has increased more than 46 per cent from December, 1914, to June, 1918. Rent cost did not advance materially during this period, but the cost of foodstuffs increased greatly, as did that of clothing, fuel, furniture and furnishings.

The average annual expenditures per family in the districts investigated last June were: Seattle, $1,569; Tacoma, $1,432; Portland, $1,23; San Francisco, $1,461, and Los Angeles, $1,288.

CAMP LIFE IS HEALTHY.

Washington, Sept. 28.—Reports by the war department show that for the two months' period ended August 31 the annual death rate from disease for troops in this country and overseas was 13.8 per 1,000, a fraction more than two men per thousand per year. The annual death rate for disease of men of military age in civil life is 6.7 per 1,000.

During the month of August remarkably low figures for this service set. The death rate for disease for August 31 and 30 was 1.78 per 1,000. The lowest rate reached in the United States during the two months' period was 1.512 per 1,000 for the week ended July 26.

Washington, Sept. 28.—Acting as a national war labor board umpire, Justice Walter Clark of the North Carolina state supreme court has awarded Wheeling iron molders an eight-hour day in a decision that will be far-reaching in effect. A few features of the decision are:

The basic eight-hour day is not an eight-hour day, but merely a wage standard upon which penalty extra hours at increased rates.

Eight hours should be the work day except in case of emergency.

The question of what constitutes an emergency shall not be left to the employer, but shall be decided by a joint standing committee of two employes and two representatives of the employer.

The assent of at least three members of the committee shall be necessary for permission to work more than eight hours in any day of 24 hours.

Justice Clark is one of the 10 umpires appointed by the president to act where the national war labor board fails to reach a decision. A controversy between Iron Molders' union No. 264 and the Wheeling Steel and Foundry company of Wheeling, W. Va., was referred to arbitration of the first section of an agreement between the two parties which provides that "eight hours constitute a day's work for all molders and coremakers." The second section of the agreement provides that "the wage rate shall be $5.50 for the basic eight-hour working day." Both parties agreed to refer the matter to the national war labor board and that body referred it to an umpire.

The iron molders contended that the agreement was an eight-hour one. This contention was upheld by Umpire Clark, who said:

"It is not reasonable to suppose that the employes, having agreed upon an eight-hour day, should, by the mere rule, impair it by substituting a 9 or 12-hour day for extra compensation.

STATE SUPREME JUDGE TALKS ON PATRIOTISM; SAYS "WORKERS GIVE; EMPLOYERS RECEIVE"

Washington, Sept. 28.—In awarding an eight-hour day to Wheeling iron molders State Supreme Court Judge Clark, of North Carolina, acting as umpire for the national war labor board, made this contribution to the definition of patriotism:

"The employers have, as a rule, patriotically given full aid to the prosecution of the war by placing their splendid plants and their highly skilled chiefs at the service of the government.

"The employes, as a rule, have also, with the same patriotism, yielded the eight-hour limitation wherever it has been necessary to speed up production for the government.

"The former have RECEIVED great increase in profit. The latter have CONTRIBUTED an increase in the hours of labor and vast numbers of men to fill our armies. THE FORMER HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT; THE LATTER HAVE GIVEN TO IT. They should not be asked to do so beyond the necessity of the occasion."

"There is a vast body of experience," continued Umpire Clark, "that a 10-hour day shortens the lives of the employes, injures their health and that the point of production there is reached in most establishments in eight hours for a longer period. Even if this were not true as to one day, the accumulation of fatigue in more than eight hours for a series of days reduces the production below that produced by strict adherence to that limit.

"Especially is this so as to the molder's occupation, the life of whom, working nine or 10 hours a day, falls to 15 years, while the average human life is said to average not more than 30 years. In work of this kind there can be no doubt that greater production will be had by the working of an eight-hour day than by working nine or 10 hours.

"It is not conclusive, though a subject for consideration, that the majority of the other shops in Wheeling and vicinity work according to a nine hour basis. All betterment has come by improving conditions, and not continuing them when bad. Improving conditions is the object of this proceeding.

"The employers have, as a rule, patriotically given full aid to the prosecution of the war by placing their splendid plants and their highly skilled chiefs at the service of the government. The employes have also, with the same patriotism, yielded the eight-hour limitation for the same purpose. The former have received great increase in profit. The latter has contributed an increase in the hours of labor, and vast numbers of men to fill our armies. The former have CONTRIBUTED capital and talent; the latter have given it to them. They should not be asked to do so beyond the necessity of the occasion."

Eight-Hour Day Means Eight Hours, Says Labor Umpire

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PORTO RICAN WORKERS AGAIN DENIED RIGHTS

San Juan, Porto Rico, Sept. 28.—At a mass meeting of citizens of all classes in this city officers of the American Federation of Labor, who, however, were asked to protest to Secretary of War Baker because of "official outrages" committed against the Porto Rico trade union movement and the illegal arrest of one of its members.

The unionists have infuriated authorities here by the publication of letters claimed to be written by prominent citizens who have plotted to destroy trade unionism. Fearing that the workers might have other information of like character, detectives, without authority, raided the union's headquarters and ransacked the offices.

One of the letters is credited to Antonio R. Barcelo, president of the Porto Rico senate, who writes to Felix C. Davila, Porto Rico commissioner at Washington, that "there is now here a movement to form a labor federation of Porto Ricans with the purpose of inducing all the elements of the free federation to affiliate with the new federation to abolish the authority of Iglesias."

The Iglesias Barcelo refers to is Santiago Iglesias, president of the Free Federation of Workingmen of Porto Rico and president of the Porto Rico senate. Iglesias is now in the United States assisting the American Federation of Labor in its fight for justice for Porto Rican workers, who have been denied many constitutional guarantees.

Barcelo also gives this interesting information in his friendly letter, regarding the new "union":

"President Wilson the day will sail Mr. Joaquin del Llano, jr., representing said federation of Porto Ricans to explain before the president and cabinet to the matters of Porto Rico. It has been asked of me for a letter of introduction and I am glad to do so. I know this representation has no great education, as is generally the case with people of this class, but I will do the best I can as possible without any compromise."

GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Washington, Sept. 28.—The commercial printing business as a whole and to a very large degree in each of its several industry by the priorities division of the war industries board.

Revenue to this the priorities division has placed newspapers, magazines and periodicals in preference list No. 1 and all other forms of commercial printing industry as a whole. Because of some apprehension by commercial printers that this industry, at the request of A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison and Matthew Woll, president of the International Allied Printing Trades association and president of the International Photo Engravers' union, Hugh Frayne, labor member of the war industries board, held a conference with the priorities division of the war industries board.

The trade unionists were assured that the priorities division regards the commercial printing industry as essential, and to a very large degree, an essential industry, and that it was omitted from the preference list not because it was a non-essential business but because it was not classed to the same essential attitude at this time.

The unionists were also assured that if any member of the printing industry was unable to secure the necessary labor, or for such service as they can perform, but to inquire from the priorities division and they will render all assistance within their power. Preference is given to printing with direct or indirect war work.

HEALTH PROTECTION URGED.

Washington, Sept. 28.—The United States health service has prepared a circular of instructions for registrants destined to the draft boards for physical examination. Copies of same are placed in the local draft boards. It is stated that in the first draft about 30 per cent of men examined were rejected and that hundreds of men called to the colors by the draft which has generally adopted throughout the country and which has usually been satisfactory."

OBJECTS TO WAR BOARD.

New York, Sept. 21.—In a long statement to Joint Chairmen Walsh and Taft, of the national war labor board, President Williams, of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company declares that the war labor board investigating charges that the company has victimized members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

Messrs. Walsh and Taft gave respectful hearing while the statement was being read and then continued their session. Mr. Williams has stated that his company should not be dominated by "outside influences," and that a "union" maintained by the company is entirely satisfactory.

One witness testified that an interloper notified him he must choose between the company and the brotherhood. Mr. Williams will submit evidence to the war labor board.

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TO PROBE WIRE WAGES.

Washington, Sept. 28.—Postmaster General Burleson has appointed a committee "to investigate the working conditions and wages paid to employes of the telegraph and telephone companies, and report as to what improvements, if any, should be made in the working conditions, the wages which should be paid the various grades of employe and the feasibility of standardizing the same."

The committee consists of William S. Ryan, assistant superintendent, division of postoffice service; John R. Colpoys, special agent, department of labor, and editor of the "Washington Labor Trades Unionist;" N. W. Bethell, first vice president American Telephone & Telegraph company; F. B. MacKinnon, United States Independent Telephone association, and Miss Julia O'Connor, president Boston Telephone Operators' union.

NO WOMEN CONDUCTORS.

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 28.—Representatives of the federal department of labor have ruled against the employment of women conductors on street cars of this city. The investigators found that local labor conditions did not warrant this innovation. The investigation was the result of a request by the street railway company employes. The latter insisted that there was not a man shortage sufficient to warrant employment of women and this has been upheld by the government's representatives.

WAITERS WANT MORE.

San Francisco, Sept. 28.—Waiters' union No. 30 has asked proprietors of "Class A" restaurants to increase wages $2 a week for over 1,000 waiters employed in these places, while those in the leading eating houses in the city. Large numbers of the waiters have unofficially met with the trade union movement.

COST OF TAXES IS LOW.

Washington, Sept. 28.—It cost the average voter $5.31 to pay his national taxes in the fiscal year ended June 30. This is at the rate of 1½ cents a day. The average is the lowest in the history of the internal revenue system.

LIBERTY DAY, OCT. 12.

Washington, Sept. 28.—The president has proclaimed October 12 as liberty day, and suggests that demonstrations and addresses on every section of the country be arranged in order to stimulate a gorgeous response to the fourth liberty loan. Government employes, where service can be spared on that day, will be excused.

"Every day," says the president, "the great principles for which we are fighting take fresh hold upon our thought and purpose and make it clearer what it is we must be and what we must do to achieve it. We see how much more certainly than we ever knew before why free men brought the great nation and government we have into existence, because it grows clearer and clearer what supreme service it is to be America's privilege to render to the world. The anniversary of the discovery of America must, therefore, have for us in this fateful year a peculiar and thrilling significance. We should make it a day of ardent rededication to the ideals upon which the nation was founded and by which our present heroic tasks are inspired."

"KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN," IS EDUCATORS' APPEAL

Washington, Sept. 28.—School Life, published by the federal bureau of education, urges that the public schools be kept open regardless of cost during the war.

Parents and educators send this message to America:

"Do not let the needs of the hour, however demanding, or its burdens, however heavy, or its perils, however threatening, turn us from the more heartbreaking make you unmindful of the defense of tomorrow, of those distinctive things which in the long run may have freedom, through which an efficient democracy may be developed, through which the institutions of civilization can be perpetuated and strengthened. Conserve your children from exploitation, suffer and sacrifice, to assure to those whom you have brought into the world a heritage of which they will be safe but a happy place for them."

P. P. Claxton, commissioner of education, says:

"Every public school, supported with the support of public schools, should know that Europe's lesson to the world is the result of the fact that it is to keep the schools going; to make education during and after the war better and more effective than it has ever been. There are before us now great and pressing tasks which ought to be sent to jail if they disobeyed the order, and sent that opinion of all right minded people with them to disobey it, and denouncing the United States court of appeals for issuing that ruling, although, in the judgment of the administration, it was a necessary war measure."

On the question of reducing the school term to meet war needs, the Weekly News Letter says:

"In the order of states limiting the hours of women's work by legislation, Illinois ranks thirty-seventh in the list. One reason for this backwardness is the work of John M. Glenn in protecting the slavery of women in Illinois."

ROUTING SHIP SLACKERS.

Washington, Sept. 28.—Provost Marshal General Crowder has announced that a drive against slackers in 10 yards uncovered 20,000 draft registrants who tried to evade the call to service by obtaining employment with the United States emergency fleet corporation.

At Camp Lee, near Petersburg, Philadelphia some employes suspended work in disgust because of the arrests of men who had secured fictitious positions as sub-foremen. Among those were pugilists and ball players who would order skilled ship builders to "go down in the hold." Many of these men, at the end of the vessel, and "go up stairs," when they referred to the deck.

One vessel was declared idle until men are "doing their damndest" to build ships, but are interfered with by these incompetents.

Workers suggest that if there is a discussion about who can work more energy displayed in getting ships into the water the war will end more quickly.

Trade unionists also suggest that skilled workmen examiners be appointed to examine the cases of slackers from those who really deserve exemption because of their work.

MINER URGES FREEDOM.

Nesquehoning, Pa., Sept. 28.—In his report to the annual convention of the United Mine Workers' district No. 7, President Kennedy declared that men who have recently deferred classification should not be chained to their jobs, but should be free to change their employment, providing such new employment is a recognized war industry.

Over 600 grievances have been handled in this district within the last two years, over 90 per cent. of which decided favorable to the workers. This means an annual saving to the mine workers of $500,000.

PASS RECORD TAX BILL.

Washington, Sept. 28.—By a unanimous vote the house passed the $8,000,000,000 revenue bill, the greatest tax measure in history. The bill will now be acted on by the senate.

WORKERS IN PLANTS TO AID GOVERNMENT

Washington, Sept. 28.—The war industries division of the department of labor announced that three plan making committees are being formed in all plants executing government contracts.

These committees will consist of a chairman, who must be a shop worker; a representative of the employer; at least three shop workers and one representative of each department of division of the plant.

These committees are to be the connecting link between the government and the plants in patriotic work. They are to help expedite things and report their work to the war industries division.

The chairman of a war industries committee," it is stated, "will introduce to the men government speakers and do such things as assigned to him by this division.

"We are instructed all those plants that the committee must be democratically chosen and the chairman may be a shop worker, not an employer.

"The duties of these committees will be largely to act in conjunction with this division. They shall not have to do with wages, hours, questions or working conditions or act in any capacity as shop committees or collective bargaining, but wholly patriotic committees, giving their entire attention to patriotic work in this matter.

"When the committees are selected, the chairman will report to the chairman, making him a government representative.

"It is the intention later on to issue to the members of the committees and to the chairman a brown insignia of office, the design of which is now under consideration."

ITALIANS FAVOR MOONEY.

Washington, Sept. 28.—Justice for Thomas J. Mooney is urged by the General Federation of Labor, Milan, Italy, in a telegram to President Gompers, Secretary Rigola, of this organization, which represents nearly 500 affiliates, expresses sentiments:

"Very conscious of the duty imposed by international solidarity, the Italian proletariat could not remain silent in face of such a test. The American unions in favor of Tom Mooney.

"It would be impossible for me to enumerate for you all the demonstrations that have taken place in Italy since we took the initiative. I send you herewith, however, a first list of communications filed or votes and resolutions of sympathy with the condemned man, while expressing our most ardent wish that justice may be revindicated."

ON 8-HOUR BAND WAGON.

New York, Sept. 28.—The New York World accepts the eight-hour decision of Supreme Court Justice Clark of North Carolina, acting as umpire for the national war labor board in the case of Wheeling iron molders.

"It has always been easy," says the World, "to flout the assertion that eight hours constitute a day's work, especially in connection with machinery, could be done in eight, as in nine, 10 or 12 hours, but in practice the theory has been demonstrated. In making these computations no one has ever had the initiative. I send you herewith, however, a first list of communications filed or votes and resolutions of sympathy with the condemned man, while expressing our most ardent wish that justice may be revindicated."

"If sufficient interest is taken by the workers from now until election day there need be but little fear that any of the enemies of the workers will be successful. But vigilance is absolutely necessary. Otherwise some of them will surely slip through."

OIL MEN ASK INCREASE.

Bakersfield, Cal., Sept. 28.—The executive board of the California Oil and Gas Well Workers' union, representing 15,000 employes in oil fields, pipe lines and refineries, asks the federal war labor board for a flat 8 per cent increase of 1 a day. This would increase the wages of the highest paid labor, 1 for the comparatively few tool dressers, $6.25 for engineers and $5 a day for drillers.

These rates have been ratified by the union, whose officials announce that the demand for strike will be absolutely given no consideration, as the men in the oil industry have a keen sense of justice that actuates the department of labor in its operations among essential war industrial employes."

RULES FOR R. R. INVESTIGATORS.

Washington, Sept. 21.—The United States railroad administration has issued instructions to persons who would submit new railroad devices for the consideration of Director General McAdoo, the following rules:

Correspondence relating to locomotives or cars should be addressed to United States railroad administration, Frank McManamy, assistant director, division of operation, Washington. Correspondence relating to roadway and track should be addressed United States railroad administration, C. A. Morse, assistant director, division of operation, engineering and maintenance, Washington.

SHERMAN ANSWERED.

San Francisco, Sept. 28.—The resent pathetical Senator Sherman of Illinois against members of the president's cabinet, which included Gompers is answered by the San Francisco labor council. The unionists declare that Gompers' statements are unworthy of any citizen.

U. S. WAR INVENTIONS SURPASS GERMANY'S

Washington, Sept. 28.—The committee on public information, says a statement, "inventive genius has perfected a plan whereby potash is taken from the flue dust of cement mills and the country is now independent of German potash for all time.

"For years before the war," it is stated, "Germany was buying up the world's supply of castor oil and storing it for use in lubricating air plane engines. We have perfected a mineral oil that serves as well as castor oil in all but the very fast fighting planes.

"We have discovered a way to make coal smokeless by extracting from it valuable by products that have previously gone to waste.

"We have found a way to save half the gasoline used in motor trucks and have developed a smokeless powder.

"We have improved rifles and machine guns that give our soldiers the home grown superiority over the enemy's.

"New methods and appliances for fighting submarines have overcome the U-boat menace. New industrial plants have been erected and speeded up our production beyond all expectation. Improvements in the telegraph and telephone have given our troops a great advantage on the battlefield. Improvements in medical science have reduced the death rate from disease to one-tenth of the lowest rate established heretofore.

"In short the nations whose inventive genius supplied the Germans with all their modern engines of war, have now so improved on those inventions that the Germans are fighting at an increasing disadvantage on land, on water, and in the air."

WOULD ANNUL LABOR LAWS.

San Francisco, Sept. 28.—The Labor Clarion says a movement has been started to annul the state labor legislature annul several important labor laws.

"Those who formerly profited by the toil of women and children are now up in arms to the court of destroying all such laws," says the editor.

Let us be sure the president of the United States and the war labor board have declaring that these laws are helping the government. That these employers believe that now is the time to take advantage of labor and they will leave no stone unturned to accomplish that purpose.

"If sufficient interest is taken by the workers from now until election day there need be but little fear that any of the enemies of the workers will be successful. But vigilance is absolutely necessary. Otherwise some of them will surely slip through."

MANY BABES DIE EARLY MOTHER LOSSES HIGH

Washington, Sept. 28.—The children's bureau of the department of labor announces that of the 100,000 babies who die every year in this country before they are one year old, nearly one-half die during the first month of life.

"Many of these bodies" it is stated, "the flame of life burns so feebly at birth that it is soon snuffed out. Others are born with ill or overworked or underfed during the momentous months before birth. In many cases the mother is to blame.

"That mothers themselves realize how little care the baby must start before the baby is born, is shown by their eagerness to avail themselves of information concerning the hygiene of maternity. The demand for the pamphlet on prenatal care issued by the children's bureau is rapidly increasing.

"At least 15,000 mothers are lost to the United States each year from causes—most of them preventable—now connected with childbirth. They die because they have not known how to provide themselves with proper pregnancy or because the surgeon is not within reach at the time of confinement, or because the ignorant midwife who attends them is careless or ignorant. Many other mothers who do not die in childbirth are left in a weakened condition, incapable of properly looking after the little lives dependent on them.

"The provision of such care for all mothers would prevent a great waste to our country—a waste that makes itself felt not only in mothers and babies that actually die, but in invalid women and puny children destined for a lifetime of ill health and inefficiency."

POSTPONE WAGE AWARDS.

Washington, Sept. 28.—The ship building labor adjustment board has postponed its decision in reference to wages, hours and working conditions in the ship yards, the ship labor board of appeals announces that, at the earnest request of "the president, it has consented to withhold its other labor adjustment agencies of the government in an effort to arrive at some common policy which will be just to all the war labor forces. The time will be short, and upon request, it is delaying its decision until the conferences are concluded, which it is hoped will be in the near future."

LONGSHOREMEN GAIN.

Chicago, Sept. 28.—A sub-committee of the national adjustment commission has announced an increase in the loading and unloading of vessels, has ruled that wage rates for deep water longshoremen in this city shall be increased from 65 to 75 cents an hour.

The decision that made this award consisted of representatives of the government, the International Longshoremen's association and the Lumber Carriers' association.

FAVOR RETIREMENT BILL.

Washington, Sept. 28.—Senator McKellar has introduced a measure into the classified civil service of the government has been reported favorably by a senate committee.

A similar bill has been introduced in the house by Congressman Kent of California, which is indorsed by organized government employes, provides that a certain percentage shall be deducted from salaries to help create a pension fund from the government shall contribute a share.

URGE U. S. RENT CONTROL.

Seattle, Sept. 28.—The central labor council asks the government to establish a rental office that will replace private rental agencies. The proposed measure would also have power to commandeer hotels, houses, apartments and lodging houses.

REJECT 7-DAY WEEK BASE.

Olympia, Wash. Sept. 28.—The state welfare commission has rejected the proposal of hotel men that the recently established minimum of $12.25 a week for women be based on a seven-day week.

The new rate will take effect within a few days and will be the highest in the history of the state.

The commission's decision is subject to appeal to the courts.